

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 10 and 11 are the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 3 and 4 and for indicating that claim 2, although objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 10 and 11 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi (USP 6,133,566). For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 10 and 11 and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Argument

In regard to the claim objections based on informalities, Applicant has amended the claims consistent with the examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the claim objections is, accordingly, kindly requested.

With respect to the claim rejections, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, two semiconductor laser light sources each including a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a line at equal intervals, and a controller for individually controlling an inclination angle of an arrangement direction of said light emitting devices of each of said semiconductor laser light sources with respect to a beam scanning direction. Applicant submits that Yamaguchi fails to disclose either of these two recited features of claim 1.

Specifically, the examiner asserts, on page 3, par. 2, of the office action, that Yamaguchi discloses the two required semiconductor laser sources as laser arrays 2_1 - 2_m , as shown in Fig. 1. Indeed, light source unit 1 of Fig. 1 "is constructed with m pieces of semiconductor laser array 2_1 - 2_m respectively having n light emitting points." (col. 3, lines 37-39). However, there is no

disclosure in Yamaguchi that the n light emitting points are *arranged in a line at equal intervals*, as required by the claim. More importantly, however, light source unit 1, comprising laser array 2₁-2_m, constitutes only one light source with a plurality of beams. The claim requires two such light sources. Accordingly, Yamaguchi does not anticipate this feature of claim 1.

Furthermore, the examiner asserts that Fig. 4 of Yamaguchi discloses the recited controller of claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner because even though Fig. 4 does show an inclination adjusting unit 41, it does not individually control the inclination angles of each of the two laser light sources. As discussed above, Yamaguchi does not disclose the required two laser light sources. Therefore, Yamaguchi cannot disclose a controller that individually controls each of the two light sources. However, even if it were determined that the single array of light emitting points 2₁-2_m somehow is equivalent to the two recited light sources, the inclination adjusting unit 41 shown in Fig. 4 can only adjust the inclination of the light sources together. That is, it cannot control the inclination individually since the inclination is adjusted by moving lever 35 of flange 29 which houses all of the light emitting points together.

For at least the above reasons, Yamaguchi does not anticipate claim 1 and, accordingly, the §102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

In regard to claims 10 and 11, Applicant submits that the rejection should be withdrawn for similar reasons to those discussed above in regard to claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that Yamaguchi does not disclose the first and second light sources or the first and second

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controllers of claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over the cited prior art reference, Yamaguchi. Claim 11 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence on allowable claim 10.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 1-4, 10 and 11, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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